

E-mails received at Budget@ScottsdaleAZ.gov

-----Original Message-----

From: Joyce Winston

Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2004 9:39 PM

To: Budget@ScottsdaleAZ.gov

Subject: budget

I believe there should be enough money to maintain Scottsdale Road, especially north of Bell. There is gas tax as well as general and Scottsdale really has only one main street and it should be better maintained.

Also, there is no public art in the northern areas of Scottsdale, as there is in the southern area. Shouldn't this be budgeted from those funds specified for that. For example, the corner of Bell (FLW) and Scottsdale is a disaster. Can't something be done on the corners??

-----Original Message-----

From: jeanne carey

Sent: Friday, January 30, 2004 10:40 AM

To: Budget@ScottsdaleAZ.gov

Subject: My priorities for the city budget

To Whom It May Concern:

I believe that Scottsdale's City Government is well run. I would like to see more budget allocations for public safety, including a police helicopter, increased K-9 and horse units, and increased bicycle unit. I would like to have a more convenient public transportation system with more buses. I do not favor using increased budget allocations for buying preserve land in the mountains. I would prefer that those homeowners whose property values benefit the most be taxed for the preserve land. Thank you for providing me with a method of expressing my input. Jeanne M. Carey

-----Original Message-----

From: James McCay

Sent: Monday, February 02, 2004 12:35 PM

To: Budget@ScottsdaleAZ.gov

Subject: Scottsdale Budget impact

The Coronado/Giants project is an example of a process that needs reviewing for the future years and benefit of Scottsdale.

There should not be the situation that we have Scottsdale taxes wasted in unnecessary court proceedings.

Thanks,
James

-----Original Message-----

From: Bob Vitell

Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2004 4:21 AM

To: Budget@ScottsdaleAZ.gov

Subject: Needed

Chapparell Lake needs water. We pay for licenses and all we are getting is a mud hole. Many people enjoy this park for walking, fishing, picnics and various sports events. Letting this lake go so low is a crime.

Neighborhoods should be looked at for bad neighbors leaving junk in their yards. Houses unpainted for several years also makes neighborhoods look bad.

-----Original Message-----

From: Arthur Mones

Date: Wed, 11 Feb 2004 22:47:50 -0700

To: budget@scottsdaleaz.gov

Subject: "Tell Us Your Priorities For The City Budget"

To City Council Members,

Thank you for asking me to share my views on budget priorities. They follow and are not necessarily shown in the order of importance.

Arthur Mones

President, Scottsdale Horizon Master Community Association

Fire department and paramedic support:

There should be enough money budgeted to sustain and/or build an effective fire department and paramedic support group. The personnel should receive competitive salaries and benefits.

Traffic enforcement:

Budget to provide effective traffic enforcement. In mid 2002 there were only 4 police cars assigned to traffic enforcement. On June 6, 2002, then Chief Bartosh said in response to our complaint (and complaints of many others) about inadequate traffic enforcement, that he was reassigning two park policemen to traffic and that he was doing other things as well. Ignoring the merits of the reassignment, the City should budget for effective traffic enforcement, not just adequate enforcement. Clearly the City conceded four cars were not enough. It's not clear six were/are either. There is discretionary money in the budget and traffic enforcement should be high on the City's priority list, irrespective of complaints and the invitation you are providing for resident input.

Traffic enforcement devices:

Photo-radar, left turn signals, and other safety implementations that were submitted to Risk Management recently are required in my community, Horizon, along with more police enforcement. Similar requests were made to the Transportation Department for over 5 years. Budget for those requests and implement them.

Police/paramedic helicopters:

Budget and spend the money approved in the 2000 bond issue for police/paramedic helicopters. They are as important to the public's well being as additions at WestWorld (WW) and a new aquatic center.

What is the risk associated with delaying purchase of the helicopters?

Police Department generally:

Budget for an adequate well equipped police department that receives competitive salary and benefits.

Water and air quality:

My understanding is that arsenic content, for example, is high in Scottsdale drinking water. There should be sufficient money budgeted to reduce it relatively soon.

Determine the risk to those drinking water with high levels of arsenic, sometimes in combination with TCE and other impurities.

Budget to improve overall air and water quality starting now. This means going beyond just meeting the current Federal standards.

It is also my understanding that there is a several day lag between completion of analysis of some water contaminants and the release of drinking water for public consumption. The analysis takes several days.

To avoid the risk of releasing water that has not been fully certified as being acceptable, there must be a water storage facility that serves as a buffer. Budget to construct that buffer.

Noise abatement:

Budget for noise determinations in the City's neighborhoods, Horizon for example. Monitor and stop occurrences of single-event high intensity noise at hours when people are trying to sleep.

Simply dealing with some of the 101-highway noise by use of low-noise-asphalt does not solve the noise problems in the City. The City must budget for strong enforcement of existing noise regulations, and for determining what else is required to deal effectively with (a) motorcycle noise, (b) noisy car engines, (c) buses, (d) trucks, (e) brake squeal, (f) aircraft and (g) other sources of noise. The City must enact an ordinance quickly that effectively results in noise reduction.

The City budget must include implementation of methods to reduce or eliminate noise from WW events.

It affects neighborhoods close to WW, Horizon, for example. Some events at WW must be held in enclosed areas to achieve noise reduction. Further, what applies to WW events applies elsewhere.

Airport safety:

The City must budget for legal and lobbying services to influence the FAA so it insists that there is a controller present at the Scottsdale Airport for flights that occur during the night and in the early morning.

There is no controller present from 9 PM to 6 AM. An alternative to this is to have the FAA close the airport during the hours in question.

Absence of a controller increases the potential for aircraft accidents and misuse of aircraft and the airport. Terrorists, for example, will have an opportunity during those hours to misuse the airport and aircraft.

Assume the lobbying and legal efforts will be successful and budget for hiring a flight controller from 9 PM to 6 AM.

Code Enforcement (CE):

There should be adequate personnel in CE to determine and react to infractions, standing water, neighborhood intrusion etc. There should be overtime budgeted for CE so late night/early morning violations are detected and stopped.

Leveling the playing field between residents and the City and residents and developers:

Residents shouldn't have to fight City Hall. But until City Hall acts as an honest broker and not an adversary, the playing field should be leveled. The City, for whatever reason or circumstance, forms alliances with developers, providers, et al. This is not news. Thus residents must contend with the Staff, the Council, the Commissions, the City attorneys, the City Manager, the developers and their attorneys, et al. Typically what is at stake is intrusion in neighborhoods, compromise of public health and safety, and compromise of quiet enjoyment of property. Sometimes the City is both developer, and advocate for development and construction that adversely affects residents.

Fairness requires that there be a budget item that permits residents to have the services of city attorneys, outside counsel, if required, as well as experts, as needed, to deal with the issues at hand. Residents should not have to scramble to obtain expert advice and guidance. What is also required is that the City attorneys, all of the City Staff, and members of the Council and Commissions do not become the developer's advocates.

None of this is academic or an abstraction. Some examples of what I refer to follow:

Residents vs. the City:

The most intrusive and least safe design alternative for the Thompson Peak Parkway Bridge was constructed in 1998. At one point there were four design alternatives and finally two. The City chose the least desirable of the two.

Residents vs. the City:

The new aquatic center will be located in and near neighborhoods that did not want it because it was intrusive and could have easily been built elsewhere where it would not be intrusive. It will be constructed in 2004.

Residents vs. Wireless Providers and the City.

A wireless ordinance was enacted in 2003 that marginally addressed public health. It could have been much stronger and thereby in line with other municipalities, e.g., Paradise Valley, AZ, Sunnyvale CA. The ordinance does not protect the City from liability, although that could easily have been accomplished if the City required indemnification from wireless providers, which it chose not to do.

-----Original Message-----

From: Diane Keiser

Sent: Sunday, February 15, 2004 3:08 PM

To: Budget@scottsdaleAZ.gov

Subject: city priorities

Hello, my name is Diane Keiser. Since I can't attend any of the citizen budget forums, I'd love to be able to share some of my thoughts. I work for the city(Civic Center Library) and love living in Scottsdale. I think it's a wonderful mix of people, shops, dinning, parks and cultural events. My concerns are that laws are just not being enforced. I'm sure I'm not the only citizen concerned with the horrible number one honors Az has, ie. red light running, no insurance, high insurance rates, car theft -to name a few. I see so many people running red lights (it's epidemic as far as I'm concerned), speeding, illegal turns, expired car registration (I saw one last week that was from April 2003-almost a year expired). What can I, as a citizen do to help? I know the police force is only so big and they can't be everywhere, but what can I do (is there a hot-line/website to report traffic infractions?) I hate to sit idilly by, while these problems become even more horrific and I have to keep paying (my car insurance has gone up 3 times in a year-even with a clean record). It makes me wonder why some of us uphold the law, while others do not-and get away with it. Not that I'm going to jump on the law breaking wagon, but what is the incentive to uphold the law?

On a positive note, I think the city has some of the best parks in the country. And as a dog owner, I love all the attention and work that the one on McDonald and Hayden is getting. It nice that citizens with dogs, can get a fair share of Scottsdale parks too.

Thanks for letting me vent, and anything that you can answer for me would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,
Diane Keiser

-----Original Message-----

From: Donna Hardin

Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2004 11:55 AM

To: budget@scottsdaleaz.gov

Subject: Budget meeting

I was planning on attending one of your Citizen Budget Forums but unfortunately, I am not able to attend. Since I will not be present, I thought I would let you know my priorities through email.

1. No more taxes for the Preserve. We are constantly reminded how important the preserved desert is for economic health of the state, not just the city. If those at the Legislature believe the desert is so important, they should stop black mailing the cities into paying to preserve them. Certain areas should be set aside to bring in "state" revenue through tourism. Property values continue to climb in north Scottsdale by expanding the Preserve with my tax dollars, while my part of town continues to decline because of neglect. If the Preserve is so valuable to north Scottsdale, let those who live there and receive the benefit pay for it.
2. Road maintenance and street scapes. The City does a nice job of putting in beautiful street scapes throughout, but does not take care of them. One example is Goldwater Boulevard. When it is maintained, it looks great. Unfortunately, often the trees and bushes become overgrown and the sidewalks are impassable, and trash accumulates. Let's spend a few bucks to keep the area from neglect.
3. How about a small budget to work with Valley Metro to make the purchase of monthly passes an easy process? If it weren't so difficult to buy a monthly pass, perhaps more people would ride. Perhaps passes could be sold at the courtesy counter at the grocery stores. When I enquired about buying a monthly pass at the Loloma Station, I was told I could only purchase with cash – no credit cards, no checks. Their hours are limited so I had to make a special trip on Saturday to pick up a pass. To purchase by mail, I would need to pay a deposit. With so many hurdles, it is no wonder more people don't ride the bus.
4. Spending more money on traffic timing would also be a good idea. As I travel each morning to work along Indian School Road, between Hayden and 68th Street it is not unusual to stop for three or four lights. On the return home in the evening, I don't travel Indian School Road because the congestion is too great. At Civic Center/Drinkwater a person frequently has to wait through two light changes. Timed lights would move traffic along more smoothly and reduce pollution.
5. We hear constantly in the press about how much the Los Arcos project will cost the City. Why don't we hear about how much the City is losing now in lost tax revenue from having forty acres producing something? The Ellman Company receives a portion of tax dollars if they are produced. Let's do something to increase revenue at that intersection – something bold like BUILD SOMETHING! How many times must the citizens vote until something happens at that site. I would love to have Lowe's or Home Depot and a Super WalMart at that location. Now I do my shopping in Phoenix on 36th Street & Thomas for WalMart and on the Indian Reservation for Home Depot. I just purchased nearly \$9,000 in cupboards last week and will spend another

\$3,000 to \$4,000 for more remodeling work. All this revenue and tax dollars outside Scottsdale. How many others are spending their retail tax dollars elsewhere?

6. Have more focus on generating revenue. Encourage growth in south Scottsdale. The potential is there.

Donna Hardin

-----Original Message-----

From: Larry Heath

Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2004 12:37 PM

To: budget@scottsdaleaz.gov

Subject: Budget Request

I am unable to make any of the public meetings on the 2004/2005 Scottsdale city budget, but would like to officially request that the City of Scottsdale disband the 2004/2005 field usage fees for sports field maintenance, and instead direct city funds to the maintenance of sports fields adjacent to area schools in south and central Scottsdale. The system as it is designed today penalizes youth sports organizations who do not play on city maintained fields, but must provide funds to their upkeep nevertheless. This request includes providing funds for the rehiring of missing City Parks Department personnel.

-----Original Message-----

From: Kay Batterman

Sent: Friday, February 20, 2004 11:32 AM

To: Budget@ScottsdaleAZ.gov

Subject: A priority for the budget

Because I was unable to attend the budget forum in my area, I would like to propose that you make plans for the following in the budget for Scottsdale:

The senior citizens who live north of Via Linda have no center and there are many here to be served. They need a place for recreation, exercise, and intellectual stimulation. This is a very large part of Scottsdale that is not being served.

Until such center can be built, we need a pick up point in the north for trips that seniors take. To illustrate this need: when I called this fall to make arrangements to take one of the senior bus tours, I was told the only pick up points were at the Civic Center and Via Linda centers. That is a long distance to ask North Scottsdale seniors to drive during rush hour only to have the bus trip to the north go very close to our homes. (I did not get to take advantage of the opportunity.)

Surely this progressive city can do better for seniors who live north of the Via Linda Center.

Thank you.

Kay D. Batterman

-----Original Message-----

From: Bob Vitell

Sent: Wednesday, February 25, 2004 7:52 AM

To: budget@scottsdaleaz.gov

Subject: Re: Needed

Chaparral Lake is getting worse and worse. The rain helped only slightly. Please do something about this nice park.

-----Original Message-----

From: Robert Pian

Sent: Sunday, February 29, 2004 11:06 AM

To: budget@scottsdaleaz.gov

Subject: Youth sports budget needs.

A Scottsdale funding need.

Scottsdale Parks and Recreation lacks full time non "ball" sport support. Our personal example is Olympic Style Target Archery.

The reason for this is that there are an insufficient number of participants to justify a dedicated facility. We at the Arizona Junior Olympic Archery Development Association (AZJOAD) learned this lesson when our request for a Tourism and Sports Authority Youth Sports grant was declined.

What we discovered is that there are many sports that "don't have the numbers".

BUT... If multiple non-traditional activities could share a space, its full time use would justify the funding of a non-ball sport multi use facility. I receive parent inquiries weekly wanting to know their child can participate regularly in the discipline of target archery.

Here is a preliminary, off the top of my head, listing of non-traditional activities that could share such a facility.

Indoor target archery

Ballroom/Country/Square dancing

Yoga/Shadow boxing/Martial Arts

Dog obedience/agility/shows

Fencing

Exercise

Or any other activity needing a large open room that does not have the numbers to compete with basketball.

These activities could all use a 60' x 120' room. Each activity could use the facility once a week and then conduct an event or tournament once a month on the weekends. These activities are generally non profit club sports and cannot afford commercial rental space.

The key to attracting children to a youth activity is to make the parents comfortable with the environment. A nearby enclosed air conditioned environment is essential for parents.

There are no indoor archery ranges in Scottsdale, East Phoenix or Tempe. The two commercial indoor archery ranges in Maricopa County (Chandler and Northwest Phoenix) are small and dominated by male hunters, which make many parents uncomfortable.

National Archery Association Clubs have liability insurance and injury is virtually unheard of and far less frequent than all ball sport.

In closing Scottsdale supports soccer, little league, football, softball, tennis, golf and basketball so well that demand for more ball sport space continues to grow. We suggest that "diversity" be considered before more of the same is provided. Activities for those that don't, run the fastest, jump the highest, move the quickest, deserve the same opportunities as the "ball sport players"

Please feel free to contact me with any question, comments or discussion. Here is the Arizona State Archery Association website www.azarchery.com

Here is the Arizona JOAD Association website <http://www.azarchery.com/2004azjoad/2004home.htm>

Thank you for your time to consider the need.

Bob Pian
AZJOAD Coordinator
www.azjoad.com

-----Original Message-----

From: Kim Edwards
Sent: Sunday, February 29, 2004 11:22 AM
To: BUDGET@SCOTTSDALEAZ.GOV
Subject: Input

I would really like to see budgeted items to include (NOT TAKE AWAY OR REDUCE) additional job training and educational support for our police officers, additional police officers (based on information from other cities our with our similar population) and additional code enforcement positions to handle a city our size. I have recommended to Raun Keagy to assist in developing a program for assisting code enforcement officers with a volunteer reprehensive within each neighborhood that receives training and guidance from Raun Keagy that gives 2-3 hours a week issuing the initial notices or warnings to help reduce the workload of their enforcement staff.

I know that the community volunteer program really helps out the police department and I believe that a pilot program for a handful of volunteers would be worthwhile to test to assist code enforcement. I have also offered to be the first volunteer to get things started-----just an idea.... :-)

Kim Edwards